Miscellanega

The Story of His Early Life and Conversion to Mormonism.

HE JOINS THE DANITES.

His Career as a Missionary, a Financier, a Legislator and a Judge.

SEALED TO HIS MOTER-IN-LAW.

How the Mountain Meadows Massacre Was Planned.

ROLL OF THE ASSASSINS.

Organizing an Indian Attack on the Emigrant Camp.

SWORN TO SECRECY OR DEATH.

Brigham Young Indorses the Crime and Supports the Brethren.

PIOCHE, Nev., March 21, 1877 John D. Lee was indicted with several

others by the Grand Jury of Beaver county, Utah Territory, on September 24, 1874, for the crime of murder committed by him in the part he took at the Mountain Meadows massacre in Washington county, Utah Territory, on September 16, coming. 1857, at which time 120 men, women and children, the children colonel Haight said the emigrants train, passing through the Territory on were a rough set; that they were bad their way to California, were,

by Mormons and Indians. All of close anything of the butchery were killed on the spot. Seventeen small children were spared from the massacre, the train was plundered and the most of the property turned over to the Mormon Church at Cedar City. The bloody clothing stripped from the mutilated bodies, was sold at auction by order of the Church authorities at Cedar City, Utah. Lee was first tried at Beaver City, Utah, in the Territorial District Court, in July, 1875, Judge Boreman presiding. At this trial the jury disagreed. Nine were for acquittal and three for conviction. A second trial was had on the same indictment, in September, 1876, in the same Court and before the same Judge, resulting in a verdict of guilty. Lee was then sentenced to be shot on January 26, 1877, he choosing that mode of execution, the laws of Utah permitting a party capitally convicted to choose the mode of his death. On an appeal to the Supreme Court of the was ordered to be enforced at the March

al days' fighting decored from

After sentence of death had been passcre, which document he delivered to Me

directed him to have the same confession made by Lee:-

His Place of Birth and Early Life.

"My name is John D. Lee. I was born on September 6, 1812, at Kaskaskia, Randolph county, Ills. My mother belonged to the Catholic Church and I was christened in the faith. My parents died while I was still a child and my boyhood was one of trial and hardships. I married Agathe Ann Woolsey in 1833 and moved to Fayette county, Ill., on Ruck Creek, where I became wealthy.

Embraces Mormonism.

read and believed the Book of Mormon ed to Fairwest, in Missouri,in 1837, where I joined the Mormon Church and became intimately acquainted with Joseph Smith, Brigham Young and other leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

I was subsequently initiated into the Order of Danites, at its first formation. This Order was solemnly sworn to obey all the orders of the priesthood of the Mormon Church; to do any and all things commanded. The Destroying Angels of the Mormon Church were selected from this organization.

An Active Member.

I took an active part as a Mormon soldier in the conflicts between the people of Missouri and the Mormons which made Jackson county, Mo., historic ground. When the Mormons were expelled from Missouri I was one of the first to settle at Nauvoo, Ill., where I took an active part in all that was done for the Church or city. I had charge of the construction of many of the public buildings there. Was a policeman and body guard of Joseph Smith at Nauvoo. After his death I held the same position to Brigham Young, who succeeded Smith as prophet, priest and revelator in the Church, I was Recorder for the Quorum of Seventy, head clerk of the Church, and organized the priesthood into the Order of Seventies. took all the degrees in the Endowment House and stood high in the priesthood. I traveled extensively through the United States as a Mormon missionary, and acted as trader and financial agent for the Church from the death of Joseph Smith until the settlement at Salt Lake City, in

The Settlement of Utah.

and cities in Utah Territory. I fie

I was an honored man in the Church, flattered and regarded by Brigham Young and the apostles until 1868, when I was cut off from the Church and selected as a scapegoat to suffer for and bear the sins of my people.

to eighteen women, three of whom have no right to question them. You us and one was the mother of must obey as you are commanded."

man. He was met half way by the em-

ported that the emigrants would surren-

The Surrender.

The emigrants then surrendered and

put their arms, the sick and wounded and children into the wagons. While

they were burying their dead men the

emigrants burst into tears and said they feared treachery. As soon as the wagons were loaded the train was started. The emigrants marched in single file, the wo-

men and large children being ahead,

The Butchery.

When the wagons were half a mile off the firing commenced. The Indians

killed all the women and large children.

the Mormons killed the men. The dri-

vers with me killed the sick and wound-

The dead were stripped and mutilated

and the corpses left on the field. The Mormons camped on the field. The next day Lieut, Col. Haight, Col. Dame and

other leaders came over. Finally they quarrelled. Lieut.-Col. Haight said to

"You ordered it, and damn you, it is

too late to go back!"

Dame said he did not know there were so many of them. We buried the dead

and drove the cattle to the Iron Springs.

Selling the Spolls.

sold in Cedar City by order of the church authorities. All these orders were fully

The Oath of Allene

A High Priest's Wishes.

Indians and the Mormons were both hos-

tile to them, and would kill all not under

taught the people that it was their duty

Reporting to Brigham Young.

Brigham Young's Blasphemy.

morning, when Young said, "Brother Lee, not a drop of innocent blood has

been shed. I have gone to God in pray-er. God has shown me it was a just act.

the part of the brethren concerned.

laying all the blame on the Indians.

Bricham Young's Plan for Concealment.

Brigham Young was then and for many

Nothing but cowardice has made him

450, making 500 cattle in all. They had

cre, Brigham Young came with him; he then knew all about the massacre and

He preached at

years after fully satisfied with me and

accordance with God's will.

ton county.

the protection of the church.

for what I had done.

of the prophets."

the United States Government.

All the wagons and other property were

We saved seventeen of the children

then the men came.

lonel Dame:

His Confession a Duty. As a duty to myself and mankind I now confess all that I know and all that I did at the Mountain Meadows massacre, with-out animosity to any one, shielding none, giving facts as they existed.

The Massacre Ordered by the Church.

Those with me on that occasion were acting under orders from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The horrid deeds then committed were done as a duty which we believed we owed to God and our Church.

We were all sworn to secrecy before and after the massacre. The penalty for giving information concerning the same was death. As I am to suffer death for what I then did and have been betrayed, both by those who gave me the orders to act and the most active of my assistants. now give the world the true facts as they exist, and tell why the massacre was committed and who were active participants.

Brigham Young Responsible.

The Mountain Meadows massacre was the result of the direct teachings of Brigham Young, and it was done by the orders of those high in authority in the Mormon community. The immediate orders for the massacre were issued by Colonel Dame, Lieutenant Colonel Isaac C. Haight and the Council at Cedar City,

I held no position either in the civil or cilitary departments, or in the Church

iron county Mormon minus. This was on a Sunday. Lieutenant Colones maight was the leader there in all things, civil, clerical and military. It was a crime punishable by death to disobey his or-

The Emigrants Doomed,

Lightenant Calonal Haight gave me full account in the course to We slept in the iron works all that night and arranged our plans. Lieu-Library Common

emigrants who were old enough to dis- emigrants. I sent Carl Shirts, my sonin-law, to raise the Southern Indians for the work. Nephi Johnson went to other

Obeying Orders.

On Monday morning I left the iron works to obey my orders. Lieutenant Colonel Haight said, "We are acting by orders—it is all right. We will let the Indians bear all the blame." I said we were forbidden to shed innocent blood. The reply of Haight was, "There is not a drop of innocent blood in the whole lot. Go. Brother Lee, and carry out the instructions of those in authority. If you are dutiful in this, your reward shall be great in the Kingdom of God, for God will bless those who obey counsel and make all things fit for the people of the Lord in

The Indian Attack.

On my way home I passed many Indians out on the warpath. I promised to join them the next day. On Tuesday morning the Indians attacked the train, just at daylight, and killed seven and wounded sixteen emigrants. The Indians Territory the judgment of the lower Court lost some of their warriors. The emigrants was confirmed at the January term in then fortified their position, and the In-1877, and the sentence of the lower Court dians surrounded them and sent for me. The whole country was aroused, both whites and Indians rushing to Mountain term in 1877. Judge Boreman set Fri- Meadows from all directions. I arrived day, March 23, 1877, as the day of execu-tion.

Lee's Confession.

Meadows From an difference on Tuesday afternoon, and found the Indians in large force. They demanded that I should lead the attack. I refused until further orders were received from Haight or Dame, ed upon Lee in September, 1876, he made then went South ten miles and met some a full confession in writing of his partici- whites and Indians coming from that dipation in the Mountain Meadows massa- rection. I camped there that night and Wednesday went to the Meadows

after his execution. The following is the Highy. There were fifty-eight whites confession made by Lee:— and about 500 Indians there. Then Major Higby made a speech and said that the emigrants were all to be killed who could talk; that we must get them out of the fortifications by treachery.

Twas to ronow the flag of truce and make a treaty with the besieged and promise protection. I was also to get the arms of the emigrants and the sick and wounded, and also the children ons. Then the troops, under Major Higby, would meet the emigrants. The In-

I sold my property in Illinois and moving drivers of the wagons were to kill the ers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and ed to Fairwest, in Missouri, in 1837, where wounded and the sick that were in the wagons. A Prayer Meeting of Murderers.

Several other men then made speeches. Then we had a prayer circle, and then more speeches were made, and it was agreed by all parties that it was the will of God for us to do as we were ordered. On Friday morning the emigrants had a white flag flying, and the Mormon breth-ren assembled. Speeches were made, and all expressed themselves as willing

Boll of the Assassins Present.

to act.

Major John M. Higby, Philip K. Smith Bishop of the church at Cedar City, Joel White, William C. Stewart, Benjamin Arthur, Alexander Wilden, Charles Hopkins, Tate Ira Ellew, Robert Wiley, Rich ard Harrison, Samuel Pollock, Daniel McFarlane, John Ure, George Hunter, Joseph Smith, Samuel Jukes, Nephi Johnson, Carl Shirts, Swen Jacobs, John Jacobs, E. Curtis, Thomas Cartwright, William Bateman, Anthony Stratton, A. Loveridge, Joseph Clews, John Durfey, Columbus Freeman, and others making fifty-four or fifty-eight whites and about 400 or 500 Indians.

Highy's | Harangue.

Major Higby then addressed the party, "Brethren, it is the orders of the President that all the emigrants must be put out of the way. President Haight has counselled with Colonel Dame and has received orders from him to put all of the emigrants out of the way. All of them must be killed, especially those that might

e were acting as a church for

ribs of the character of the emi-

-

children of the men who killed the saints in Jackson county, and afterwards killed the Prophet in Carthage jail,— Their children are in the poorhouse; their relatives now refuse them because they are the children of thieves, outlaws and murderers. I have been told there are many brethren who are willing to inform on those who did this thing. I hope there is no truth in the rumor. I hope no such person lives.
"If there is, I tell you what your fate

will be. Unless you repent at once, keep secret all you know, and protect each other, you will die a dog's death. You will soon go to hell as damned, lost souls. Let me hear no more of treachery among my people." Any one who had proved traitor there would have met the destroying angel at once.

After I reported to Brigham Young I

went home and met Lieut.-Col. Haight and gave him a full report of Young's statement. Haight said: "Well done faithful servant; you shall receive a celestial reward for your services. You have deserved well of God and the Church!"

I next went to work to write up an account of the massacre, laying it to the Indians, I wrote a long letter, the same as has been introduced in evidence against me. Brigham Young knew that it was false and written to save the Mormon Church.

His report to the government was a part of the plan to save the Mormons from blame. It was years afterwards before I knew

that I had been made a tool of by the leaders. I only obeyed the orders of my superiors. I then believed I was serving God and would receive a celestial reward

offices in the Territory, and was a member of the Mormon Legislature and Probate Judge of Washington county, Utah.

Polygamy and Sealing.

Immediately after Joseph Smith received the revelation concerning polygamy I was informed of its doctrines by said Joseph Smith and the apostles. I believed in the doctrine, and have been sealed in the doctrine, and have been sealed in the doctrine, and have been sealed in the good men. You The only reply was a shot from Stew-

art, which killed Aden. The other man was wounded by White and Arthur, but escaped, and carried word that the whites

escaped, and carried word that the whites had come to help the Indians. After the same of igrants, and they held a parley with him. Bateman then returned and reder their arms and do as they had been requested. The Mormon soldiers then marched out to within 200 yards of the ing men, women and children as a religious duty. emigrants. They next took wagons and went to the camp and stated their orders. The Mormon Kingdom.

We were at that time in the midst of the excitement of the reformation, and were made to believe by the teachings of our leaders that the fullness of time had come—that the Mormons were to conquer the world at once, and inherit all the wealth of the universe; that Christ was to come and rule for 1,000 years, and the Mormon doctrine was to be universally accepted. We were followers of false teachers. I have fallen a victim to the arts of foolish and wicked men that I once believed were divine. I have had eighteen wives. Eleven of them have been divorced from me by Brigham Young; three still remain true to me and have clung to me during my impris-ment. I am the father of sixty-four children. Ten are dead, and fifty-four are still living. The witnesses on my trial have not told the whole truth. They are guilty of helping to kill the emigrants. This is the only act of violence that I ever took part in except lawful battle. I would not have acted on that occa-sion as I did to have saved my body from torture, had I not believed I was obey ing the orders from the heads of the Church. I knew I was doing according to the teachings of the priesthood, and I still think Lieut.-Col. Haight had his orders from the heads of the Church.

Lee's Private Journals Destroyed by Brigham My private writings and journals have been destroyed by order of Brigham memory to give as my account of the foul deeds done in God's name during the years when Brigham Young was

The brethren were again sworn to sechief ruler in Utah.

I know of many other murders, castrations, and robberies committed by order erecy. This was also done by order of the church, which was then at war with of the priesthood, all of which I have fully stated in my writings delivered to my attorney, W. W. Bishop. I have told the whole truth, and the

George A. Smith, who was the second in the priesthood, having just happened to be there giving orders, visited the International Control of the Second Secon God I am soon to meet face to face knows that my assertions are nothing but the truth.

ATTEST.—The foregoing is a full abstract of the confession of John D. Lee, taken emigrants go through without a pass from President Young, Col. Dame and Lieut. Col. Haight; that they must not sell the

from the original manuscript now in my possession and gives, so far as such a condensed report can do, a complete statement of the acts disclosed in the Lohn D. Lee which relate me Mountain Meadows massacre. WILLIAM W. BISHOP.

BOB TOOMBS.

This pleased him and he laughed and said, "All right." Lieut,-Col. Haight and Dame told him the same thing. He He Thinks Hayes's Policy a "Good Thing for the Boys."

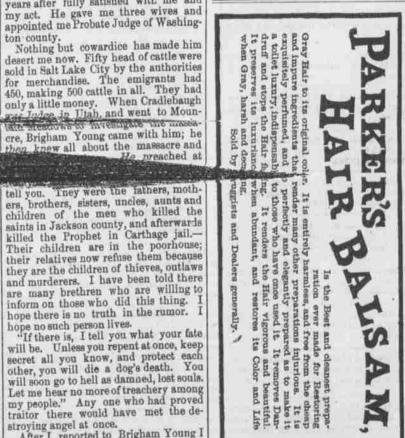
to kill all emigrants, and murder them just as Brother Smith and the other leaders wanted. Col. Haight then sent me to Salt Lake City for the purpose of re-General Robert Toombs has been in the city during the past few days. He porting to Brigham Young, and he promised me a crown celestial as my reward talks with his usual freedom about men and things, and his comments on the sitnation are unreserved. A Herald corre-I went to Salt Lake City and made my spondent talked with him yesterday, report to Brigham Young ten days after the massacre. I told him all, everything when the conversation naturally turned on the new President's Southern policy, "My advice to the boys," said Toombs, -who were there, who were guilty and who were active in killing the emigrants
-in fact, all I knew. I said to him, is to take all the offices they can get .-They are poor, and they have a right to all the offices in the South. I should like to see Hayes tested. If he is as full of performances as he is of promise, the boys will have a good time." "You must sustain us or release us from the endowment oath to avenge the death Brigham Young said, "I will commu-nicate with God." I went back the next

Correspondent-Do you think the distribution of offices among the Southern Democrats will have a tendency to divide the solid South?

General Toombs (laughing and looking shrewd)—Does it demoralize a whale to get a good breakfast? Its effect will be surprisingly different.

The people did right; but were only a little hasty. I have direct evidence from God that the act was a just one, and in Correspondent—How is that?
Gen. Toombs—Why, it will utterly demoralize the radicals. Do you suppose the men who fattened on the South are "I sustain you and the brethren in all that you did. All I fear is treachery on willing to sit quietly and see the offices home and tell the brethren I sustain appropriated by Democrats? No, sir, there is neither complacency nor comthem. Keep as secret as the grave.-Never tell any one, and write me a letter punction in the Radical politician. There will be revolt. Whatever motives may prompt Hayes to give us home rule and service in the South, the results will in the interest of patriotism. It will

break up the Republican party .-- Cor. N





CLOTHING.

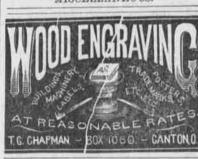
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Has to Say!

Another opportunity to get rid of Your Surplus Money, and I am not particular whether it is gold, Silver or Greenbacks, I am after itall the same, for I have effected arrangements whereby I can use an Immense Amount of Good, Legal Money, and will offer good inducements to all in the shape of Good, Reliable, First-class Goods, for less Cash than any house in the county. I have made preparations for a large spring trade, and I don't propose to be disappointed. I have studied your wants carefully, and made it a point to select just such goods as I know you need, and at such prices that you can't refuse to buy. I respectfully ask you not to spend one cent of your money until you see my goods and know the prices I am selling them for. All are invited, for we have goods enough to go around two or three times. Be sure and see me early.

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Administrator's Notice.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed and qualified as Administrator of the estate of Enos Raffeusparger, deceased, late of Bethlehem township, Stark county, Ohio. Those having claims against the estate will present them for adjustment, and those knowing themselves indebted will please call and fettle.

In J. W. OHAPMAN, Administrator.

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TO THE CITIZENS OF CANTON AND VICANTY: Thankful for the patronage already bestowed on me, I solicit a continuation of the same, and assure the public that none but the Best Meats will be kept on hand. I will purchase only the best cattle that the country affords, and when I cannot get such as I want here I will go to the west and get tham. I will also keep on hand none but the best of VEAL, MUTTON and PORK; also Smoked Hams, Breakfast Bacon, Pickled Pork and Corned Beet. I have now on hand some of the best cattle in Stack county. Give me a trial and convince yourself.

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PUMPS FOR ALL DEPTH WELLS
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